

Hi Fans,

Carpenters & Staff send sincere regrets to those of you who may have suffered losses, either physical or material, from the devastating storms that lashed our country from one end to the other. Snow, rain, floods and mud slides caused extensive damage and made this winter a tough one to endure. We were happy to see some rain after two years of drought but once it started, it forgot to stop. So here's wishing everyone a beautiful spring, summer and fall.

Karen sends thanks for all the lovely cards and gifts you sent to help her celebrate her 28th birthday. Mom Carpenter, too, is grateful for the remembrances which she received. K & R opened at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas on Karen's birthday, so Mom and Dad flew up to help her celebrate. After the second show, K & R, Mom & Dad, the group and the roadies all dropped into K's dressing room to help her devour a scrumptious birthday cake which the Hotel Chef had baked for her. Mom and Dad planned on returning to Downey on Saturday but due to gale force winds and a downpour of rain, they stayed an extra day and came home Sunday in clear weather.

During K & R's stay in Tahoe this past February, they donned snow apparel and rode the lift to the ski area where they had a great time learning to ski and playing in the snow. It was the first opportunity they had this year for fresh air recreation. Since before Christmas, they have been spending most of their time at A & M Studios working on a Christmas album. Some of the songs on it will be from their 1977 Christmas Special including the beautiful piano rendition of "O Holy Night" by Richard. Uncertain weather kept them indoors at Vegas, so they rented a recording studio there to continue work on the album. It will be a beauty.

We have some lovely new wallet pictures and posters, each a different pose chosen from their latest photo session. Prices are the same as prior ones quoted on the current keepsake list. Wallet pictures are 35¢ for USA fans and 50¢ for foreign fans. New posters are \$2.00 for USA fans and \$2.50 for foreign fans. These prices include postage and handling.

Their newest single is doing exceptionally well on the Country/Western Charts. They are bulleted in all three trades.

Car buffs who are keeping a list of Richard's car collection, we have some additions since the last newsletter. Here are the latest:

1977 Jaguar XJS

1955 Plymouth Belvedere

1972 Ford Ranchero ½ ton pick-up

1978 Dodge Diplomat (This was a Christmas gift for Mom from K & R & Dad)

NOTE: BE SURE YOUR RETURN ADDRESS IS ON ALL MAIL YOU SEND OUT. THIS IS A POST OFFICE REQUIREMENT AND THERE IS A CHANCE YOUR LETTER MAY END UP IN THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE IF YOUR RETURN ADDRESS IS NOT ON THE ENVELOPE.

Time for a few questions and answers, so here goes.

Q. Is it true that Karen is going to do some movies?

A. Karen has had several offers for both TV and movies and she would like to try her hand at acting. At the present time she is still too busy with concerts and recordings to devote the time that would be required for these commitments.

Q. What does Richard plan to do with his collection of cars?

A. He has no immediate plans but has toyed with the idea of some day having a show room where they can be displayed. However, this would be in the distant future as he would not show any of them until they were refurbished to mint condition.

Q. Does Karen have a collection hobby?

A. Not at the present time. She collected stuffed animals until she ran out of room for them and was forced to put some in storage. She has a wardrobe trunk full of them stored in the garage attic. Others sit quietly in her bedroom, the pool room and the music room. A huge bugs bunny which is bigger than she is, occupys half of a love-seat in her bed room. With his foot placed on his knee and his "arm" across the back of the seat, he looks very life-like and is quite startling to first time visitors. Her hobby now is needlepoint and most of the items she makes are her own creations and ideas. She is planning on doing some crewel embroidery next to see if she enjoys it. (I'm betting that she will.)

Q. Does Karen enjoy working any puzzles?

A. Yes indeed! She is a crossword puzzle fan and truly enjoys this pastime. It helps her to relax and unwind after a busy day. She also enjoys working them as she eats breakfast or lunch at home. There are several crossword puzzle books in her bathroom magazine rack and one of her Christmas gifts was a roll of crossword puzzle toilet paper.

Q. A British magazine stated that K & R's follow-up single to "Ticket To Ride" was "Cinderella Rockafella". Is this true?

A. No. K & R have never recorded "Cinderella Rockafella". The follow-up single to "Ticket To Ride" was "Close To You".

Q. Are Carpenter singles or albums available thru the fan club?

A. The only record available thru the fan club is the Christmas Single. This year the single was "The Christmas Song" and "Merry Christmas Darling". These sell for \$1.50 For USA fans and \$2.50 foreign fans. This includes postage and handling.

Q. Have Carpenters recorded "You and Me Against The World" ? I saw the sheet music and on the cover was a picture of Karen and Richard and printed at the bottom was "As recorded by the Carpenters on A & M records".

A. Carpenters have never recorded "You and I Against The World", and had nothing to do with their picture being on the sheet music. In fact, this was news to them. Someone must have goofed.

Q. What is K & R's favorite single that they have recorded?

A. They are both partial to "I'm On Top of the World".

Q. Did Karen take Home Economics in school?

A. Home Ec. was a requirement in the Jr. High School grades. She learned both cooking and sewing. Now and then when time schedules permit she attends various gourmet cooking classes. She is an excellent cook and has a kitchen full of cooking equipment. She also has a double oven, a microwave oven and a warming oven. Oh, yes, also a barbeque built into her kitchen.

Q. Does Karen like escargot? (Edible snails)

A. Yes, she does. She also enjoys all types of shell fish.

Q. Why is it that when recording their albums the Carpenters don't use exactly the same musicians as they do on the stage?

A. Carpenters are a duo, not a group. The back up musicians that travel with them were hired mainly for concert tours and personal appearances. When K & R record, studio musicians are hired thru the musicians' union. If the backup men are available or if Richard needs them for special effects, they are hired along with the studio musicians.

Q. Where did Richard learn to arrange and orchestrate the songs Karen sings?

A. Orchestrating and arranging is a natural talent for Richard. Arranging is something like repeating something you've heard but giving it your own version. There are writers and/or storytellers who can, with words, make a beautiful story out of a report or article that was first written as a gruesome event. Richard has the ability to turn harsh sounds into beautiful ones. Who else but Richard would play Beatle music on the church organ during offering and the opening and closing of church services? *And get away with it!*
(The latter was Dad's remark!)

Q. Did Richard write a song called "Topsy"?

A. No, but there is a member of the Musician's Union named Richard Carpenter, who may have written it.

Keep your questions rolling in for next newsletter.

Don't forget, the charts are strongly influenced by the number of requests the radio stations receive for performers songs, so keep bugging your local D.J's for the Carpenters latest releases, and help get them back to #1 where they belong!

We all wish you a very happy Easter.

Rap in May.

EV.